



MEDIA RELEASE

Arrest for Brandishing a Knife at State & Victoria

SANTA BARBARA, CA – August 27, 2012

On August 26, 2012, at 1:12 a.m., several officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department responded to a call of a subject brandishing a knife in the area of the intersection of State Street and Victoria Street. Officer Mike Little was on 1200 Chapala Street at the time and arrived on-scene within seconds of receiving the call. Officer Little observed the suspect, 32-year old transient Roger Dean Mason, standing in the intersection, yelling. As Officer Little alit from his vehicle Mason threw a knife onto the ground in the officer's direction and then lay down in the street. Officer Little held Mason at gunpoint until other officers arrived to assist in handcuffing Mason.

Mason was agitated, sweating profusely, and acting erratically. He yelled that he had been attacked by four men. Investigation indicated that as a group of employees from Bouchon Restaurant at 9 W. Victoria Street were leaving work, they noticed Mason standing near the restaurant, holding a glass of wine, and acting strangely. One of the group asked Mason if he needed anything, politely trying to enquire if Mason had any business with the restaurant. In a paroxysm of anger Mason challenged the group, shouting expletives and waving a large knife that had been concealed beneath his clothing. After threatening the group Mason went into the intersection and continued to yell at passing cars until Officer Little arrived.

Mason's knife was 8½ inches long with a 4 inch, fixed blade. Mason was arrested, taken to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Emergency Room for medical evaluation, and then booked into Santa Barbara County Jail for brandishing a deadly weapon, a misdemeanor, and carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, a felony, with a bail amount of \$2,000.00.



Mason, Roger Dean

Photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

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